ENGLISH COLONIES IN AMERICA VIRGINIA, MARYLAND AND THE CAROLINAS, By J. A. DOYLE, Large octavo, pp. 420. Henry Holt & Co.

This volume is the first instalment toward what the author hopes to make a complete nistory of the English colonies in North America. It embraces the history of the four Southern colonies, Virginia, Maryland and the Carolinas, during the seventeenth century, with several preliminary chapters on the native population, the era of discovery and the French and Spanish actdements during the sixteenth century. The second volume will recite the founding, development and tonuencies of the New-England colonies to the end of the seventeenth centary, and the third and final volume will include the history of the remaining celenies and of the whole group to the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. This is a comprehensive plan, and Mr. Doyle. apart from the experience already acquired in the preparation of two minor volumes relating to the same subject, has many qualifications for the work which he has undertaken. He is orderly and systematic in his literary studies, persevering and laborious in his researches, just and impartial in his indgments and reflections, and clear and precise lu his style. He is as frank in his acknowledgments of indebtedness to earlier workers in the same field as he is unpretentious in his methods and conclusions, and his pages are singularly free from blemishes of prejudice, partisanship and individual preference. If the undertaking be completed in the spirit in which it has been begun, the work will be a comprehensive history of the North American colonies during the period of dependence upon the Mother State. It will not be a work remarkable for originality of treatment or orilliancy of execution, but it will be a compact, orderly and thoroughly useful contribution to historical study.

A field which had been frequently surveyed and critically examined by American and English writers, presented few opportunities for original investigation and philosophical reflection. Mr. Doyle deliberately set for himself the task of telling answ what had been many times told before. He could have no expectation of bringing to light any new material from the Public Record Office, nor of adding to the abundant stores of information already collected. Whatever may be said of the utility of a scholarly abstract of the individual and collective records of the colonies, voluminous and exhaustive as they are, the honor to be derived from such a digest of historical investigations must have seemed a meagre compensation for the ardnons labor of the undertaking. Nothing could be said in relation to the aboriginal population which had not been already said by Schooleraft and Cailin; for the voyages of discovery during the sixteenth century a new writer could only refer to Haklnyt's culiection, precisely as all previous investigators have done; Mr. Parkman had made so thorough a study of the French Pioneers in America that there was nothing to glean in that field; and the records of the Southern colonies during the seventeenth century had been so often rausacked and so exhaustively treated that an ambitious author would have hesitated long before un lertaking to traverse ground so well-worn and so familiar to intelligent readers. For his part, Mr. Doyle appreciates the necessity of justifying his course in entering upon a scenningly superfluous work. He has a distinctive purpose in dealing with materials which are already complete and have lost the charm of novelty. This purpose must be stated in the author's own words:

own words:

I have preferred to regard the history of the United States as the transplantation of English ideas and institutions to a distant soil, and the alaptation of them to new wants and altered modes of life. That history differs in one important point from that of any other nation of equal greatness. So far as the American colonies form communities separate from the mother country, we can trace their life and institutions from the very fountain head. In their case we can see those stages of growth going on under our very eyes when elsewhere can only be traced out imperfectly and obscurely. It is true that this statement needs one where can only be traced out representations where can only be traced out imperfectly and obsecurely. It is true that this statement needs one important modification. The history of the American colonies is in one sense nothing more than a continuation of English history. In it we see a certain section, or rather certain sections, of English bootety transplanted to a foreign soil, withdrawn from man, of the influences which determined the development of the nation at home, and exposed to man new and peculiar conditions. But we must never forget that an English colony of the seventeenth century was not, like a Greek colony, a ready made common wealth with all its social and political institutions mendled for it before it sailed from its native shore. The American colonies were at the outset small communities of Englishmen practically free to shape their own institutions and move of hie within certain wide and clastic lants. The colonies did indeed one and all form for themselves institutions closely resembling those of the mother country. But these mathations were developed, not transplanted or servicely copien. That process of development will form the man subject of this book. The interest attaching tions were developed, not transplanted or servicely copien. That process of development will form the main subject of this book. The interest attaching to this inquiry is twofold. The early history of the American colonies is all important as an introduction to the history of the Federal Republic. It is also of great value as illustrating those principles which govern the origin and growth of political institutions. From the first point of view its interest is obvious. No one can be insensible to the charm which surrounds the eradle of a great varion. The other side of the question has an innation. The other side of the question has an in-terest less evident, but not less real. To watch the growth of a constitution in the broad light of day is a privilege seldom granted to the sixth of day growth of a constitution in the broad right of only is a privilege schom granted to the student of bistory. He can indeed, study the manufacture of constitutions in plenty. But that far more instructive process by which a young and vigorous community frames, almost unconsciously, institutions. community frames, almost unconsciously, institute to its growing wants has generally to be spelled out with toil and difficulty, and is often even at last but imperfectly understood. In the case of the American colonies we see the process going on around us in full activity under varying social and economical influences.

This passage supplies the motive of the work. While the individual aspects of the colonial character, the social and religious traits, the spirit of adventure and romance, and the external conditions of pioneering are not passed over in science, but treated with a sympathetic touch, the constitutional history of the growing States is the central theme. Mr. Doyle's work is designed primarily for students of political institutions, and inasmuch as his main purpose is comprehensively outlined, his opening volume possesses unity and definiteness without being a dry and abstract study of constitutional principles.

Any judgment upon the author's success in executing this scheme of historical investigation will be premature, while the most critical portions of the work are still unfinished. For our own part we cannot conceal some degree of apprehension lest the plan, which the author has adopted, may not have some unfortunate; tendencies. This fear is not based upon the details which he gives of the patents, charters, constitutions and institutions of the Southern colonies, but upon the declaration of his purpose as previously quoted. An author who enters upon an historical investigation with a theory formulated in advance, and a deriberate intention of demonstrating, so far as possible, the validity of that theory, unconsciously if alls into the habit of accommodating the facts to the purpose which he has in mind. His attention being fixed upon a definite object directly before him, he is apt to lose a rigid sense of proportion and a true idea of historical perspective. Little things are magnified and great things are obscured according as they are mear or at a distance from the central object of vision. For example, an Englishman might make a special study of the constitutional tendencies of France at the present time-a study which would heavily task the philosophical instincts of a second Guizot-and if he set out with a preconceived notion that Cabinet Government had been trans planted from England and had taken root beyond the Channel, he would be apt to fix his attention upon central facts sike the resignation or President Thiers upon receiving an adverse vote from the Assembly, or the systematic and successful efforts of President MacMahon's Premiers to reduce him to the level of a constitutional monarch and to deprive him of Executive authority. An American, n the same exclusive spirit, might make the Presideutial functions the dominating feature of the same constitutional system, and bestempted to enarge upon the decline of the Premier's personal infinence and the collective authority of the Cab inet, and at the same time overlook the sharp divergences between the Procidential systems of government in the United States and France. Even if sisher the English or the American student of politeal institutions could succeed in discriminating with unerring accuracy between the actual tenden-

cies *owara Cabinet and Presidential government, both might be equally at fault in overlooking evidences of an original type of government which was neither English nor American but distinctly French. The analytical method is the only one which is absolutely safe in the study of the origin and growth of pational life and political institutions. Preconceived ideas and inductive processes based upon primary analogies mislead even the

most judicious and impartial observer. Now if there was ever a period in human history in which political institutions diverged at a bread angle from their bases and by virtue of the creative energies of a vigorous community took a form and direction markedly in contrast with preconceived ideas and accepted traditions and precedents, it was that in which the foundations of the American Nation were laid. The Constitution, which was framed after the separation of the colonies from the mother country, was fundamentally unlike, not only the English Constitution, but every other Constitution the world had ever known. It was an indigenous growth so distinctive in its pature that its origin cannot be attributed to foreign germs. Now Mr. Doyle admits readily enough that colonial institutions were developed, not transplanted or servilely copied, and that colonies of the seventeenth century were not ready-made communities with preexisting social and political characteristics. At the same time he broadly asserts that "the history of the American colonies is in one sense noth ing more than a continuation of Euglish history. as they formed for themselves institutions closely resembling those of the mother country. If he considers this to be true in any sense, his English instincts, his regard as an author for unity of effect and his natural affection for a prearranged plan of investigation will tend to percert his judgment. He will be tempted to follow lines of parallelism and to trace analogies until they are so faint as to cease to be perceptible to ordinary observers. He will not be apt to regard England as a point of departure but rather as a point of origin for American institutions, and consequently will fail to appreciate what is markedly original and characteristic in the development of political life in the New

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